

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF U.S. CAPITOL POLICE SERGEANT JUAN CARDENAS

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of U.S. Capitol Police Sergeant Juan Cardenas, badge No. 3793, who is retiring this month after thirty-two years of service.

For nearly twelve years, Cardenas has served as a Sergeant in the First Responders Unit. During this time, he has managed the mountain bike and First Responders' training programs that serve to protect Members of Congress during normal and emergency situations and acted as a supervisor in charge of motorcade operations for the President, Vice President, and Heads of State arriving at the Capitol. Sergeant Cardenas worked on projects of the utmost importance, including the State of the Union and the last three Presidential Inaugurations.

Sergeant Cardenas's success was grounded in his unwavering dedication and exceptional skill. From 2000 to 2008, Sergeant Cardenas was a supervisor in charge of the Patrol Mobile Response Division, and before that, Police Officer First Class in Communications Section 3. However, Sergeant Cardenas's life of service did not begin with the U.S. Capitol Police: Sergeant Cardenas first served his country in the United States Air Force, where he was selected for Special Air Mission and provided security to the Presidential aircraft for then-Vice President George H.W. Bush.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Cardenas has led by example as a friendly but resolute face on the Capitol grounds and beyond. Time and time again, Sergeant Cardenas has established himself as an expert, particularly due to his role in helping the U.S. Capitol Police establish a well-executed and safe motorcade operation. His ability and commitment showed every single day, whether he was managing a motorcade, searching for a lost child, apprehending a suspect, or delivering a hot meal or new shoes to a homeless veteran. Sergeant Cardenas has proven himself to be a man his colleagues and our country can rely on.

Over the years, Sergeant Cardenas has been showered with awards and commendation, including a Blue Badge Medal, one of the Department's top five honors. In 2004, Sergeant Cardenas received accolades for creating a child safety seat program and, in 1998, he received the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials telecommunicator of the year award for his role as a dispatcher during the shooting of U.S. Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson. While he is clearly reluctant to retire, it should be noted that Sergeant Cardenas has given a great deal to the Force, suffering serious injuries in a 1992 motorcycle accident as a Private on Patrol Division.

Please join me in thanking Sergeant Juan Cardenas for his incredible service to the U.S. Capitol Police, the Congress of the United States, and to our Nation.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCK- PILE ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 7574, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act of 2020. This bipartisan legislation will play a crucial role in strengthening state's and the federal government's PPE reserves to ensure our great nation is even better equipped to eradicate future health crises. Americans, especially those in South Jersey, have been harshly impacted by PPE shortages that have increased contraction and death rates and put our frontline health workers at great risk. Under this legislation, not only will America be better prepared for health emergencies, but we will do so by increasing American manufacturing of PPE and other essential supplies through an innovative pilot program. I am proud to support this crucial bipartisan legislation.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCK- PILE ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7574, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act of 2020. I'm proud to have advanced this bipartisan bill through my Health Subcommittee and I'm pleased to support it on the Floor.

I'm also proud that this legislation includes my bill with Representative SUSAN BROOKS to allow the SNS to sell and transfer soon-to-be expired supplies to other government agencies, stretching taxpayer dollars so we can respond to the current pandemic and be prepared for the next.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare many sad and startling realities in our country. One of the most surprising is that the Strategic National Stockpile, established in 2003 to respond to public health emergencies like the one we're currently experiencing, was completely unprepared for the current outbreak.

When we opened the door of the SNS, the cupboard was bare, and American lives were lost. Today we're considering the Strength-

ening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act to address some of these shortcomings.

This legislation requires that the contents of the SNS be in good working order and mandates that the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and CDC implement a transparent process for the use and distribution of such supplies.

The bill increases reporting on how supplies are procured for the SNS, as well as requires reporting on states' requests for supplies during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

While we cannot erase the failures of the SNS during the current pandemic, we can ensure that the stockpile is adequately supplied and maintained so we can be better prepared for the next public health emergency.

I'm proud to be an original sponsor of H.R. 7574 and I urge my colleagues to support it.

SAVANNA'S ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 227, Savanna's Act, a bill to combat the epidemic of missing and murdered Native women and girls.

In the United States, Native women face tragically high rates of violence, sexual assault, and murder. According to the Department of Justice, 84 percent of Native and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that homicide is the third leading cause of death among Native women. These rates are ten times higher than the national average and reflect centuries of institutional racism and systemic inequalities that Native communities face.

Too often families of missing and murdered Native women are left without answers. We cannot allow the experiences of Native and Indigenous communities continue to slip through bureaucracy. I am a cosponsor of Savanna's Act, which will create and improve procedures, communication, and cooperation among federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies that may share jurisdiction over investigating crimes against Native women.

Our Nation's devastating history of colonization has left missing and murdered Native women invisible to law enforcement for centuries, but today, by passing Savanna's Act we can give a voice to this silent crisis. We must strive to better understand the institutional racism and systemic inequalities that Native communities face. And we must keep fighting for justice for those who are missing or murdered.

I thank Congresswoman TORRES for her leadership on this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support Savanna's Act.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

SAVANNA'S ACT AND NOT
INVISIBLE ACT**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I offer my staunch support for Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act. It is a horrific fact that Native American women face a murder rate ten times higher than the national average, with eighty-four percent experiencing some form of violence in their lifetime. To make matters worse, without a dedicated federal database designated to collecting information on the number of how many Native women go missing or are murdered every year, we do not have the whole picture—this is completely unacceptable. Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act begin to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

In Arizona, a state home to 22 Native American tribes, we recognize and know the horrors of this crisis. We know that it is a misconception that Native women only go missing on Tribal lands. Studies have shown that the majority of Native Americans and Alaska Native people now live in urban communities, where they also go missing. Violence against Native women spans beyond tribal lands and thus so must the solutions.

I am encouraged to see these bills come to the House Floor for consideration because it has taken us too long to act on this issue. It has taken us too long and lives have been taken and lost. We cannot in good conscience continue with inaction. I support the passage of these bills and hope they are signed into law as soon as possible—we owe it to the Native American women who we have lost and those who are still with us today and worry they might be next.

CREATING A RESPECTFUL AND
OPEN WORLD FOR NATURAL
HAIR ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, and the Congressional Black Caucus, and as a cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5309, the "Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act of 2019" or the "CROWN Act of 2019," introduced by Congressman RICHMOND, which explicitly prohibits discrimination on the basis of hair texture or hairstyles commonly associated with a particular race or national origin in areas of the law where discrimination on the basis of race or national origin is already prohibited.

It has long been my position that discrimination based on hair texture and hairstyle is a form of impermissible race discrimination.

According to a 2019 report, known as the CROWN Study, which was conducted by the

JOY Collective (CROWN Act Coalition, Dove/Unilever, National Urban League, Color of Change), Black people are "disproportionately burdened by policies and practices in public places, including the workplace, that target, profile, or single them out for their natural hair styles—referring to the texture of hair that is not permed, dyed, relaxed, or chemically altered."

The CROWN Study found that Black women's hair is "more policed in the workplace, thereby contributing to a climate of group control in the company culture and perceived professional barriers" compared to non-Black women.

The study also found that "Black women are more likely to have received formal grooming policies in the workplace, and to believe that there is a dissonance from her hair and other race's hair" and that "Black women's hairstyles were consistently rated lower or 'less ready' for job performance."

Among the study's other findings are that 80 percent of Black women believed that they had to change their hair from its natural state to "fit in at the office," that they were 83 percent more likely to be judged harshly because of their looks.

The study indicated that Black women were 1.5 times more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair, and that they were 3.4 times more likely to be perceived as unprofessional compared to non-African-American women.

Three years ago, the United States Army removed a grooming regulation prohibiting women servicemembers from wearing their hair in dreadlocks, a regulation that had a disproportionately adverse impact on Black women.

This decision was the result of a 2014 order by then-Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to review the military's policies regarding hairstyles popular with African-American women after complaints from members of Congress, myself included, that the policies unfairly targeted Black women.

In 2015, the Marine Corps followed suit and issued regulations to permit lock and twist hairstyles.

The CROWN Study illustrates the prevalence of hair discrimination but numerous stories across the country put names and faces to the people behind those numbers.

In 2017, a Banana Republic employee was told by a manager that she was violating the company's dress code because her box braids were too "urban" and "unkempt."

A year later, in 2018, Andrew Johnson, a New Jersey high school student, was forced by a white referee to either have his dreadlocks cut or forfeit a wrestling match, leading him to have his hair cut in public by an athletic trainer immediately before the match.

That same year, an 11-year-old Black girl in Louisiana was asked to leave class at a private Roman Catholic school near New Orleans because her braided hair extensions violated the school's policies.

The next year, two African-American men in Texas alleged being denied employment by Six Flags because of their hairstyles—one had long braids and the other had dreadlocks.

And earlier this year, there were news reports of a Texas student who would not be al-

lowed to walk at graduation because his dreadlocks were too long.

The CROWN Act prohibits discrimination in federally funded programs and activities based on an individual's hair texture or hairstyle if it is commonly associated with a particular race or national origin, including "a hairstyle in which hair is tightly coiled or tightly curled, locs, cornrows, twists, braids, Bantu knots, and Afros."

The legislation also provides that the prohibition will be enforced as if it was incorporated into Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in federally-funded programs, and that violations of Section 3(a) will be treated as if they were violations of Section 601 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to give another example of why this legislation is necessary and why I support it so strongly.

In July of this year, Barbers Hill Independent School District, just east of my home city of Houston, Texas school district reaffirmed its discriminatory grooming policy that led to the suspension of two Black students earlier this year.

The students—cousins Kaden Bradford and De'Andre Arnold—wear their hair in long dreadlocks.

But the school district forbids male students from keeping their hair at a length "below the top of a t-shirt collar, below the eyebrows, or below the ear lobes."

De'Andre Arnold had complied with the dress code throughout high school by keeping his hair up.

But in 2019 the school board made the code more stringent, requiring that students' hair meet the district's length requirement even if not worn let down, which meant that De'Andre Arnold would have been required to cut his dreadlocks and in the process, destroy them, all in contravention of West Indian cultural traditions that specifically prohibit cutting or trimming locs.

De'Andre Arnold, a senior who had been in the school district since pre-kindergarten, was told by school officials that he would not be able to go to the senior prom or walk in his high school graduation until he cut his dreadlocks.

Mr. Speaker, Black students are and have been disproportionately targeted and penalized for violating facially race-neutral grooming policies that are designed to, and have the effect of, profiling, singling out, and burdening Black children for wearing their hair in its natural state.

Students like De'Andre Arnold should not be faced with the impossible choice of either suppressing their cultural heritage and Black identity by cutting their natural hair or forfeiting their right to equal educational and extracurricular opportunities.

The CROWN Act says to students like De'Andre Arnold and others similarly situated that the Congress of the United States hears him, sees him, and affirms his beauty and dignity and pride in his culture.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.